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Reply to Office Action of April 8, 2003

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Atty Dkt. No.: DI-5596A
BBL No.: 113963-015

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-21 (withdrawn)

Claim 22 (currently amended): A monolayer film comprising:

a non-diene containing polymer blend of a first component of a polymeric material capable of being cross-linked and selected from the group consisting of an ethylene containing polymer, the first component present in an amount by weight of the film from about 50% to about 95%, the first component having a first melting point temperature determined by DSC, a second component not readily cross-linkable and selected from the group consisting of propylene containing polymers and methyl pentene containing polymers, the second component being present in an amount by weight of the film from about 50% to about 5%, the second component having a second melting point temperature determined by DSC; and a portion of the first component being cross-linked and the second component is essentially free of cross-linking.

Claim 23 (original): The film of claim 22, wherein the second melting point temperature is higher than the first melting point temperature.

Claim 24 (original): The film of claim 22 is capable of forming a peel seal to itself when heated to above the first melting point temperature but below the second melting point temperature.

Claim 25 (original): The film of claim 24 is capable of forming a permanent seal to itself when heated above the second melting point temperature.

Claim 26 (original): The film of claim 22 is capable of being sterilized by steam at a temperature from about 100°C to about 130°C.

Claim 27 (original): The film of claim 23, wherein a peel seal heat sealing window is defined between a range of temperatures existing between the first melting point temperature and the second melting point temperature.

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Claim 28 (original): The film of claim 27, wherein the peel seal heat sealing window includes at least one temperature point within a range of temperatures suitable for steam sterilization.

Claim 29 (original): The film of claim 27, wherein the peel seal heat sealing window includes at least one temperature point within the range of from about 75°C to about 135°C.

Claim 30 (original): The film of claim 22 is capable of forming a peel seal with itself that is capable of adhesive release.

Claim 31 (original): The film of claim 22, wherein the ethylene containing polymer is selected from the group consisting of: ethylene homopolymers, and ethylene copolymers.

Claim 32 (original): The film of claim 31, wherein the ethylene copolymer is obtained by reacting ethylene with a comonomer selected from the group consisting of: α -olefins, vinyl esters, vinyl carboxylic acids, alkyl substituted vinyl esters, alkyl substituted vinyl carboxylic acids, acrylic acids, ester derivatives of acrylic acids, alkyl substituted acrylic acids, ester derivatives of alkyl substituted acrylic acids and ion stabilized alkyl substituted acrylic acids.

Claim 33 (original): The film of claim 32, wherein the ethylene and α -olefin copolymer has a density of less than about 0.915 g/cc.

Claim 34 (original): The film of claim 33, wherein the ethylene copolymer is obtained using a single-site catalyst.

Claim 35 (original): The film of claim 22, wherein the propylene-containing polymer is selected from the group consisting of propylene homopolymers and propylene copolymers.

Claim 36 (withdrawn)

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Claim 37 (original): The film of claim 35, wherein the propylene containing polymer has a modulus of elasticity of less than about 200,000 psi.

Claim 38 (original): The film of claim 22, wherein the first component is a blend of ethylene containing polymers.

Claim 39 (original): The film of claim 22, wherein the second component is a blend selected from the group consisting of at least one propylene-containing polymer, at least one methyl-pentene-containing polymer, and at least one propylene-containing polymer and at least one methyl-pentene-containing polymer.

Claims 40-144 (withdrawn)

Claim 145 (new): A monolayer film consisting essentially of:

a polymer blend of a first component of a polymeric material capable of being cross-linked and selected from the group consisting of an ethylene containing polymer, the first component present in an amount by weight of the film from about 50% to about 95%, the first component having a first melting point temperature determined by DSC, a second component not readily cross-linkable and selected from the group consisting of propylene containing polymers and methyl pentene containing polymers, the second component being present in an amount by weight of the film from about 50% to about 5%, the second component having a second melting point temperature determined by DSC; and a portion of the first component being cross-linked and the second component is essentially free of cross-linking.

Claim 146 (new): The film of claim 145, wherein the second melting point temperature is higher than the first melting point temperature.

Claim 147 (new): The film of claim 145 is capable of forming a peel seal to itself when heated to above the first melting point temperature but below the second melting point temperature.

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Claim 148 (new): The film of claim 147 is capable of forming a permanent seal to itself when heated above the second melting point temperature.

Claim 149 (new): The film of claim 145 is capable of being sterilized by steam at a temperature from about 100°C to about 130°C.

Claim 150 (new): The film of claim 146, wherein a peel seal heat sealing window is defined between a range of temperatures existing between the first melting point temperature and the second melting point temperature.

Claim 151 (new): The film of claim 150, wherein the peel seal heat sealing window includes at least one temperature point within a range of temperatures suitable for steam sterilization.

Claim 152 (new): The film of claim 150, wherein the peel seal heat sealing window includes at least one temperature point within the range of from about 75°C to about 135°C.

Claim 153 (new): The film of claim 145 is capable of forming a peel seal with itself that is capable of adhesive release.

Claim 154 (new): The film of claim 145, wherein the ethylene containing polymer is selected from the group consisting of: ethylene homopolymers, and ethylene copolymers.

Claim 155 (new): The film of claim 154, wherein the ethylene copolymer is obtained by reacting ethylene with a comonomer selected from the group consisting of: α -olefins, vinyl esters, vinyl carboxylic acids, alkyl substituted vinyl esters, alkyl substituted vinyl carboxylic acids, acrylic acids, ester derivatives of acrylic acids, alkyl substituted acrylic acids, ester derivatives of alkyl substituted acrylic acids and ion stabilized alkyl substituted acrylic acids.

Claim 156 (new): The film of claim 155, wherein the ethylene and α -olefin copolymer has a density of less than about 0.915 g/cc.

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Claim 157 (new): The film of claim 156, wherein the ethylene copolymer is obtained using a single-site catalyst.

Claim 158 (new): The film of claim 145, wherein the propylene-containing polymer is selected from the group consisting of propylene homopolymers and propylene copolymers.

Claim 159 (new): The film of claim 158, wherein the propylene containing polymer has a modulus of elasticity of less than about 200,000 psi.

Claim 160 (new): The film of claim 145, wherein the first component is a blend of ethylene containing polymers.

Claim 161 (new): The film of claim 145, wherein the second component is a blend selected from the group consisting of at least one propylene-containing polymer, at least one methyl-pentene-containing polymer, and at least one propylene-containing polymer and at least one methyl-pentene-containing polymer.

Claim 162 (new): A monolayer film consisting of:
a polymer blend of a first component of a polymeric material capable of being cross-linked and selected from the group consisting of an ethylene containing polymer, the first component present in an amount by weight of the film from about 50% to about 95%, the first component having a first melting point temperature determined by DSC, a second component not readily cross-linkable and selected from the group consisting of propylene containing polymers and methyl pentene containing polymers, the second component being present in an amount by weight of the film from about 50% to about 5%, the second component having a second melting point temperature determined by DSC; and a portion of the first component being cross-linked and the second component is essentially free of cross-linking.

Claim 163 (new): The film of claim 162, wherein the second melting point temperature is higher than the first melting point temperature.

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Claim 164 (new): The film of claim 162 is capable of forming a peel seal to itself when heated to above the first melting point temperature but below the second melting point temperature.

Claim 165 (new): The film of claim 164 is capable of forming a permanent seal to itself when heated above the second melting point temperature.

Claim 166 (new): The film of claim 162 is capable of being sterilized by steam at a temperature from about 100°C to about 130°C.

Claim 167 (new): The film of claim 163, wherein a peel seal heat sealing window is defined between a range of temperatures existing between the first melting point temperature and the second melting point temperature.

Claim 168 (new): The film of claim 167, wherein the peel seal heat sealing window includes at least one temperature point within a range of temperatures suitable for steam sterilization.

Claim 169 (new): The film of claim 167, wherein the peel seal heat sealing window includes at least one temperature point within the range of from about 75°C to about 135°C.

Claim 170 (new): The film of claim 162 is capable of forming a peel seal with itself that is capable of adhesive release.

Claim 171 (new): The film of claim 162, wherein the ethylene containing polymer is selected from the group consisting of: ethylene homopolymers, and ethylene copolymers.

Claim 172 (new): The film of claim 171, wherein the ethylene copolymer is obtained by reacting ethylene with a comonomer selected from the group consisting of: α -olefins, vinyl esters, vinyl carboxylic acids, alkyl substituted vinyl esters, alkyl substituted vinyl carboxylic

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acids, acrylic acids, ester derivatives of acrylic acids, alkyl substituted acrylic acids, ester derivatives of alkyl substituted acrylic acids and ion stabilized alkyl substituted acrylic acids.

Claim 173 (new): The film of claim 172, wherein the ethylene and α -olefin copolymer has a density of less than about 0.915 g/cc.

Claim 174 (new): The film of claim 173, wherein the ethylene copolymer is obtained using a single-site catalyst.

Claim 175 (new): The film of claim 162, wherein the propylene-containing polymer is selected from the group consisting of propylene homopolymers and propylene copolymers.

Claim 176 (new): The film of claim 175, wherein the propylene containing polymer has a modulus of elasticity of less than about 200,000 psi.

Claim 177 (new): The film of claim 162, wherein the first component is a blend of ethylene containing polymers.

Claim 178 (new): The film of claim 162, wherein the second component is a blend selected from the group consisting of at least one propylene-containing polymer, at least one methyl-pentene-containing polymer, and at least one propylene-containing polymer and at least one methyl-pentene-containing polymer.